

Message Text

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65-61

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 AID-31 IGA-01 EB-07 SY-05

L-03 H-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /099 W

----- 028301

R 241537Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL HAMBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3438

AMCONSUL ROTTERDAM

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL AMSTERDAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HAMBURG 0952

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD PINR

SUBJECT: ALLEGED DIVERSION U.S. GOODS DESTINED FOR
SOUTH VIETNAM

REF: A. ROTTERDAM 380;

B. STATE 136754

C. HAMBURG 894

1. FOLLOWING UP ON REPORT IN REFTEL A THAT ACKERWALL WORKED FOR "STUDION HAMBURG", CONSULATE LOCATED A MR. YASUPAL AGGARWAL WHO PRESENTLY WORKS THERE AND SHORTLY WILL BEGIN WORKING FOR AMPEX IN FRANKFURT. AGGARWAL, AN INDIAN BORN IN TANZANIA, HAS BEEN IN GERMANY SINCE 1968 AND HAS KNOWN WEBER SINCE THEN. HOWEVER, IN A MEETING WITH THE CONSULATE OFFICER, HE DENIED ALL KNOWLEDGE OF THE GOODS DESCRIBED BY WEBER IN REFTEL C.

2. AGGARWAL SAID HE HAD LAST SEEN WEBER ON MAY 31, AT WHICH TIME WEBER MENTIONED WITHOUT ELABORATING A QUOTE BIG DEAL UNQUOTE HE WAS WORKING ON WHICH INVOLVED BOTH THE SOVIET
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AND UNITED STATES CONSULATES IN HAMBURG. AGGARWAL

ALSO SAID THAT SEVERAL YEARS AGO WEBER HAD A REPUTATION FOR DEALING IN STOLEN MERCHANDISE. AGGARWAL COULD THINK OF NO REASON WHY WEBER WOULD DRAG HIM INTO THIS MATTER, EXCEPT HE DESCRIBES WEBER AS QUOTE CHILDISH UNQUOTE.

3. WE BELIVE THAT AGGARWAL AND ACKERWALL ARE IN FACT THE SAME PERSON AND WE DO NOT THINK HE WAS THE SOURCE FOR WEBER'S STORY. AGGARWAL WAS RELAXED AND OPEN DURING OUR MEETING. WE TEND TO BELIEVE HIM OVER WEBER, WHOSE RECORD FOR HONESTY SEEMS QUITE LOW.

4. BEFORE AND AFTER OUR MEETING WITH AGGARWAL, WE HAD SEVERAL TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS BOTH WITH WEBER AND HIS WIFE. WEBER WAS INITIALLY ELUSIVE AND NOW REFUSES TO DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER. IN OUR LAST CONTACT WITH WEBER, ANOTHER UNNAMED PERSON CAME ON THE TELEPHONE, SAYING HE HAD ADVISED WEBER NOT TO DISCUSS THE MATTER ANYMORE. HE SAID THE INFORMATION WEBER HAS GIVEN ALREADY SHOULD BE ENOUGH FOR US TO FIND THE MERCHANDISE IF WE WANT TO. HE THEN REFUSED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER ANYMORE HIMSELF, AFTER ACCUSING US OF REWORDING THE CONVERSATION. MRS. WEBER, WHO BY HER OWN AND AGGARWAL'S ACCOUNTS IS THE BRAINS BEHIND WEBER'S BUSINESS, DESCRIBES HER HUSBAND VARIOUSLY AS UNPREDICTABLE, IMAGINATIVE AND HALF CRAZY. SHE CLEARLY EITHER BELIEVES OR WISHES US TO BELIEVE THAT WEBER'S ENTIRE STORY IS A FIGMENT OF HIS IMAGINATION.

5. WHILE BASIC ELEMENTS OF WEBER'S STORY MAY BE TRUE, AND THE PERIPHERALS INVENTED TO DISGUISE THEIR SOURCE, WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO VERIFY ANY CONSTITUENT PART OF HIS TALE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ROTTERDAM IS CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS TO LOCATE SHED 23A AND/OR THE EQUIPMENT ITSELF, AND WE WILL ENDEAVOR, AFTER A SHORT BREATHING SPELL, TO TALK WITH WEBER AGAIN. BROGAN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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